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25 OCT 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : National Civil Service League Award

1. This memorandum is for your information.

2. In response to your request, we have informally explored the re-nomination of Jack Smith for the National Civil Service League Award with a League Officer, namely, Jean Couturier, Executive Secretary for NCSL. Our representative was [] who has handled our public service award nominations over the years and has established some rapport with Mr. Couturier. Of course, Mr. Couturier's remarks to Miss [] were off the record. STATINTL

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3. He assured her that our nomination document for Mr. Jack Smith last year was very good, as our previous nominations have been. He confided that Mr. Smith had been in the top group of 15 selected for final consideration but that "other factors" than accomplishments were considered in the final selection, i.e., emphasis on selecting some winners who are working outside of Washington and some from minority groups. Our representative concluded from Mr. Couturier's remarks that he considered nominees from CIA and from the Department of State to be top contenders but that the odds were against them last year.

4. Mr. Couturier noted that many NCSL award winners were "repeat nominees." The Agency's previous nominees have won the award on the first nomination, but it is not unusual for an individual to be nominated two and three times before being selected.

5. The procedure for selecting winners is as follows:

The one-page summary on each nominee is reviewed by 40 members of the League. Mr. Couturier and one other person read the entire nominating documents for all candidates. All candidates are ranked during this initial screening and then Mr. Couturier submits the nominating papers for the top group to the Selection Committee. I am sure that Mr. Couturier does not serve on the Selection Committee, but he is the "prime mover" in the initial screening and probably meets with the Selection Committee.

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6. [] suggested to Mr. Couturier that a private briefing on our candidate would be helpful for us since we were limited in expounding on the specific achievements of our candidate. He agreed that this

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could be arranged. In view of the manner winners are selected, I would recommend that the Director send forward our nomination, and in a separate letter to Mr. Day ask that the Agency be given the privilege of briefing an appropriate official of the League. This official would probably be Mr. Couturier who would be in a position to put forth the case of our candidate in the final selection and to advise the Committee that if they needed more information, an Agency representative would brief them.

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Emmett D. Echols
Director of Personnel